THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Widened to 10 metres.

(c) Work of all three level crossings has been completed in Dec., 96.

[Translation]

Extension of Financial Assistance for Development of Buddhist Tourist Centres

6435. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance was extended by the Government for execution of projects relating to the development of several Buddhist tourist centres during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance extended for each of these projects, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) whether these projects have been completed within their targetted time schedule;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the projects yet to be completed showing their revised schedule?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism has extended Central financial assistance to State/Union Territory Govts. for the following projects in Buddhist centres during the last three years:-

		(Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	Tourist Complex Lama-Yuri (J&K)	17.12
2.	Refurbishment and Conservation of Hemis Monstary	19.79
3.	Conservation of Spituk/Pethub Monastary	23.97
4.	Launch at Nagarjuna Sagar (A.P.)	75.50
5.	Tourist Complex at Tabo (H.P.)	28.30
6.	Refurbishment Phedong Monastary	30.00
7.	Refrubishment Phensong Monastary	30.00
8.	Refurbishment Lachung Monastary	6.19
9.	Ellora Festival, Ellora	0.50
10.	Refurbishment of Monuments at Lalitgiri, Udaigiri, Ratnagiri (Orissa)	76.00
11.	Amenities Centre Dhauli (Orissa)	20.26

The implementation and completion of these projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and these projects are at various stages of implementation by the State Govts.

In addition the Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund has provided a soft loan for two projects namely; Development of infrastructure along the Buddhist circuit in U.P. and Bihar for an approx. amount of Rs. 249.14 crores and Conservation and Development of Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra for an amount of Rs. 69.48 crores.

[English]

Recovery of Licence Fees

6436. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 19.20 crores were collected as Licence Fees from basic services holders during the year 1996-97 as against the estimated licence fee of Rs. 2074.72;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the basic services licence holders who have not paid the licence fee till 31.3.97; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the recovery of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The amount of Licence fee realised upto 31.3.97 is Rs. 116.718 crores from two companies which have signed the Licence Agreements.

(b) and (c) 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have so far been issued to 8 companies for providing Basic Telephone Service in 12 Telecom Circles. Out of these, only 2 companies have paid the licence fee and signed the licences. 4 companies holding 7 LOIs have filed Civil Suits in the High Court of Delhi against Government's order for invocation of their Earnest Money Bank Guarantees due to their failure to comply with tender provisions and their cases are sub-judice. Remaining 2 companies holding LOIs for 3 Circles are required to pay Licence Fee of Rs. 683.70 crores before signing the Licences.

(d) To expedite signing of remaining Licences, Government has made appropriate efforts to resolve the issues raised by them.

[Translation]

Speed Post Services

6437. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries to which Speed Post Service is available from Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the names of the countries likely to be included under this service during the year 1997?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) International Speed Post Service is available to 80 Countries from the following Cities in U.P. are attached as statement.

1. Agra
2. Allahabad
3. Dehradun
4. Gorakhpur
5. Kanpur
6. Lucknow
7. Varanasi
8. Meerut
9. Moradabad
10. Ghaziabad (Extension Counter)
11. Noida (Extension Counter)

(b) Proposals to extend the International Speed Post Service to Nepal, Mongolia, Botswana, Bulgaria, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Namibia, Poland and Tanzania are under consideration.

Statement

List of countries for which the EMS speed post (International) service is available.

(A) Both Documents and Merchandize

1. Austria
2. Australia
3. Bangladesh
4. Bermuda
5. Bahrain
6. Bhutan
7. Canada
8. Cyprus
9. Egypt
10. Ethiopia
11. Federal Republic of Germany
12. France
13. Ghana
14. Greece
15. Hong Kong
16. Hungary
17. Iceland
18. Ireland
19. Israel
20. Italy
21. Japan
22. Kenya
23. Latvia
24. Macau
25. Malawi
26. Malaysia
27. Mauritius
28. Morocco
29. Netherland
30. New Zealand
31. Norway
32. Oman
33. Pakistan
34. People's Republic of China
35. Portugal
36. Qatar
37. Republic of Korea
38. Russia
39. Senegal
40. Singapore
41. Spain
42. Sudan
43. Switzerland
44. Turkey
45. Thailand
46. United Arab Emirates
47. United Kingdom
48. United States of America
49. Uganda
50. Vietnam
51. Jordan
52. Romania
53. Combodia
54. Eritrea
55. Estonia
56. Ukraine

(B) Documents Only

1. Argentina
2. Belgium
3. Cape Verde
4. Denmark
5. El Salvador
6. Guyana
7. Indonesia
8. Iran
9. Iraq
10. Kuwait
11. Luxembourg
12. Maldives
13. Mexico

14. Niger
15. Nigeria
16. Panama
17. Papua New Guinea
18. Rawanda
19. Saudi Arabia
20. Sri Lanka
21. Sweden
22. Tunisia
23. Yemen Arab Republic
24. Zaire

Passenger Amenities at Kurukshetra Railway Station

6438. SHRI O.P. JINDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that lakhs of pilgrims visit Kurukshetra every year and the railway station is so small that it is very difficult to provide facilities for all the passengers;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to expand the Kurukshetra railway station as per the requirement and to provide all facilities in view of the above fact;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Adequate facilities to handle the passenger traffic at Kurukshetra are created during the Mela period. Since rush of passengers are only for a very limited duration, creation of permanent facilities are not justified.

[English]

Satellite Earth Station

6439. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 968 dated November 28, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the answer given about the working of satellite earth station of Tholse was contrary to the fact and the linkage of the said earth station was technically not feasible;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving the incorrect reply and misleading the House;

(c) whether the earth station already installed at Thoise is likely to be shifted to Diskit, the headquarters of Nubra sub division;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a new satellite earth station is likely to be installed at Diskit during 1997; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. (Satellite earthstation is already working at Thoise and linkage of Thoise earth station with Diskit on a terrestrial media is technically feasible.

(b) Question does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise in view of reply to part 'c' above.

(e) Satellite earth station using SCPC technology at Thoise is already working which was technically/financially justified at that point in time to meet the requirement for Diskit as well. Now with the stablisation of MCPC technology, it is also possible to provide direct satellite access to the Diskit telephone exchange. Therefore it is proposed to provide MCPC-VSAT at Diskit during 1997-98 time frame.

(f) Question does not arise in view of reply to part 'e' above.

Telephone Adalats in U.P.

6440. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Adalats organised in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases settled;

(c) whether such Adalats are proposed to be organised at the State level also; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) 23 Telephone Adalats were held during last two years in U.P.

(b) 1519 cases were settled in these Adalats.

(c) and (d) Telephone Adalats are being held in Telecom Circles/districts headed by Telecom District Engineers and above, in all the States/Union Territories.

T.V. Transmitter Project in Maharashtra

6441. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE:

SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY:

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of T.V. relay centres HPT/LPT/VLPT functioning in Maharashtra as on March 31, 1997, location-wise;